ATLAS
RAWHIDE KID

HE SHARES HIS SADDLE WITH DANGER!

MAY

RAWHIDE KID

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CA AUTHORITY

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NO. 8

10¢

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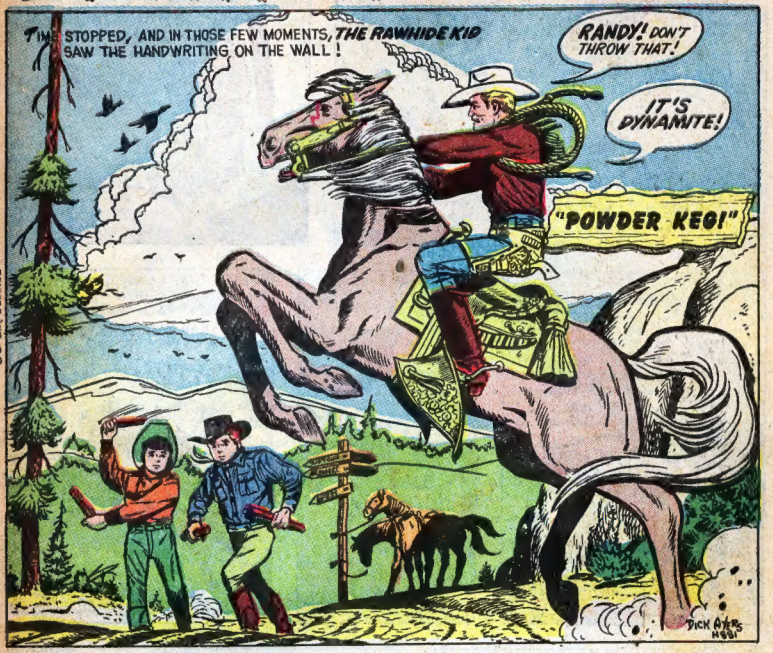
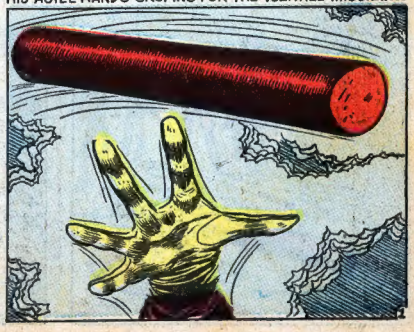
THE RAWHIDE KID


TIME STOPPED, AND IN THOSE FEW MOMENTS, THE RAWHIDE KID SAW THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL!
RANDY! DON'T THROW THAT!
IT'S DYNAMITE!
"POWDER KEG!"
DICK AYERS HOGI

IT WAS TOO LATE! RANDY CLAYTON COULD NOT TAKE BACK HIS ACTIONS...

THE RAWHIDE KID MOVED WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, HIS AGILE HANDS GROPING FOR THE VOLATILE MISSILE...



HIS HANDS REACHED OUT AND CLOSED FIRMLY BUT LIGHTLY AROUND THE OBJECT...
YOU MUST BE JOKING, KID! THAT CAN'T BE DYNAMITE!
DON'T BUDGE, EITHER ONE OF YOU! I WANT YOU TO HAND THOSE STICKS TO ME GENTLY, ONE AT A TIME!
ALL RIGHT, KID!
NOW YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE YOU GOT THESE AND WHAT YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE!
WE FOUND 'EM ON THE TRAIL HERE! WE HAD NO USE FOR 'EM SO WE DECIDED TO SEE THEM WHIRL THROUGH THE AIR!
THESE ARE DYNAMITE STICKS! LET'S GO TO THE CREEK!
GOSH! WE DIDN'T KNOW, KID... HONEST!
THERE! THAT'LL MAKE 'EM HARMLESS! NOW LET'S BACKTRACK THAT STAGE TRAIL AND SEE WHAT ELSE WE FIND!
WE'LL SHOW YOU WHERE WE FOUND 'EM!
MINUTES LATER...
YOU BOYS STAND BACK! THIS STUFF WAS DROPPED OFF THE STAGE SOMEHOW!
LET'S RIDE INTO TOWN AND FIND OUT HOW THIS STUFF HAPPENED TO BE ON A STAGE!

LATER, IN SHOTGUN CITY...
THAT STAGE WAS DUE IN HERE OVER AN HOUR AGO! SHE WAS LOADED WITH DYNAMITE CONSIGNED TO THE RAILROAD BRIDGE FOR REPAIR WORK!
I'VE GOT A STRONG HUNCH YOU'LL NEVER SEE THAT STAGE AGAIN, BILL!
EXPRESS OFFICE
I'LL GET THE SHERIFF ON THE CASE RIGHT OFF! WHAT ARE YOU AIMIN' TO DO?
I RECKON I'LL JUST MOSEY AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN PICK UP THE STAGE'S TRAIL!
YOU MAY PICK UP THE TRAIL, AMIGO, BUT YOU'LL NEVER COME BACK TO TELL ABOUT IT!
IF YOU BOYS DON'T REACH THAT BUZZARD BEFORE HE FINDS THE TRAIL, ALL OUR PLANS WILL BLOW UP!
WE'LL GET HIM, CLEM! LET'S MOUNT UP, BOYS!
LATER, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
I CAN'T RISK TAKING YOU WITH ME, BOYS! NOW YOU SCAT BACK TO THE HOUSE AND STAY OUT OF MISCHIEF!
OKAY, KID!
KID WON'T GET MAD IF WE JUST TRAIL FAR BEHIND HIM AN' STAY OUT OF SIGHT!
I CAN'T SEE WHAT HARM IT WOULD DO! COME ON, RANDY!
AN HOUR LATER...
THERE'S THE STAGE'S TRAIL, AND A FEW MORE HORSES HAVE JOINED THE PARTY! IT WAS BUSHWHACKED!

SUDDENLY...
WHAT!
HIT THE DIRT, STRANGER, AND LAY MIGHTY STILL!

I'LL HIT THE DIRT, BUT YOU'LL HIT IT WITH ME!
HE PULLED DOWN WHITEY!

QUIT SQUIRMING! I'VE GOT A BEAD ON YUH!

OKAY, BOYS! TAKE HIM UP TO THE SHACK AND TIE HIM UP GOOD!

LATER, IN THE MOUNTAIN HIDEAWAY...
WHY DID YOU BUSHWHACK THAT STAGE?
THAT DYNAMITE WAS SLATED FOR THE REPAIR OF THE OLD BRIDGE OVER SNAKE RIVER! IF I BLOW UP THE BRIDGE, THE RAILROAD MAY BE FORCED TO BUY A RIGHT OF WAY ON PROPERTY I OWN!

RIGHT NOW A TRAIN IS HEADED FOR THE OLD BRIDGE ... BUT THE BRIDGE WON'T BE THERE! COME ON, BOYS!

I WISH RANDY WAS HERE NOW! I COULD SURE USE HIS HELP! BUT I TOLD HIM TO STAY HOME!

AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE KID'S WISH...
RANDY! YOU DID FOLLOW ME!
HOPE YOU'RE NOT ANGRY WITH US! WE HAD A FEELING YOU MIGHT NEED US!
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, BOYS! YOU TWO HUSTLE DOWN TO THE TRACKS AND FLAG OFF THE TRAIN! I'M HEADING FOR THE BRIDGE!
WE CAN CUT OFF THE TRAIN DOWN NEAR LOST ROCK!
THE RAWHIDE KID RODE LIKE THE WIND, AND HALF AN HOUR LATER ...
THERE THEY ARE! I HOPE RANDY AND CLAY CAN STOP THE TRAIN!
COME UP HERE PRONTO WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
LIGHT THE FUSE, BOYS! WE'LL FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!
THE KID'S GUNS ROARED!
LIGHT IT! THE REST OF YOU STOP THAT COYOTE UP YONDER!
IT'S NO USE, FORD! WITH THAT KIND OF SHOOTIN', WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! I'M QUITTIN'!
LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIN IS ON TIME! YOU'LL BE ON TIME, TOO, WHEN THE JUDGE GETS THROUGH WITH YOU!
WE GOT THERE TOO LATE TO STOP THE TRAIN, KID! BUT THE TRAIN DID MAKE IT ACROSS OKAY!
IT SURE DID, BOYS! NOW HELP ME HERD THESE RATTLERS TO TOWN!
THE END

ESCAPE

THE wizened old prospector, Poke Edwards, mopped his brow and glanced up at the setting sun.

"Be gettin' dark in a little while," he mumbled to himself. "I'll just dig for a few minutes more, then knock off for grub."

He picked up his pick and went back into the hole he'd dug in the face of the Arizona cliff. For another hour, he worked away, then, just as he was getting ready to quit for the day, he realized his pick had revealed a different kind of rock.

Shaking with excitement, Poke bent down and examined the rock in the waning light. He breathed hard, staring at the little flecks of yellow in the quartz.

"Gold," he whispered, "gold! After all these years, I've finally struck it rich!"

He carried the piece of ore back to his camp. After glancing at his burro to make sure she was grazing comfortably, he lit a fire and set up coffee and beans for his evening meal. He ate slowly, hardly noticing the food, his mind going back over the hard years of prospecting.

Poke Edwards had come out to the West fifteen years before. It had been a hard, gruelling life, always searching for the yellow metal, never finding it. Poke had learned many things during that time. How to find water in a dry desert, how to live on cactus when you ran out of food. He knew every rock formation in the country, where it was wise to dig, where it was foolish — where it was dangerous. Two years before, he had settled on the hills around him as the most likely to contain gold. And now he'd found it.

Nellie, the burro brayed softly. Old Poke chuckled and held up the lump of ore. "You got nothin' to worry about any more, Nellie, old girl," he called. "When I stake my claim, I'll buy you a plush-lined stall and feed you nothin' but imported hay. And for myself I'll—"

"You'll put your hands in the air, old-timer, and let us take a squint at that rock you're holding," drawled a voice behind Poke.

Poke stiffened, then he raised his hands and turned slowly.

Two evil-looking men sat on horseback a few feet away from the campfire. Both had six-guns trained on the old prospector.

"W-what do you want?" Poke quavered.

"Maybe nothing," one of the men said, "and maybe, whatever you got. Pete, get down and tie his hands."

Pete dismounted and swiftly trussed up the old prospector. Then he examined the piece of quartz.

"Looks like the real thing, Jed," he told the mounted man.

Jed climbed off his horse and stepped over to the fire and looked down at the bound man. "Where'd you get it, Pop?" he demanded brutally.

For one second, Poke thought about refusing to tell them, then his shoulders slumped. He was an old man.

The best thing to do was to let them have the claim and hope they'd let him escape with his life. It was a dim chance, but the only one he had.

"From my diggin's, over by the cliff." In a broken voice, he told them where his mine was located, and finally Jed nodded, satisfied

"Take a lantern and see if he's telling the truth, Pete," he said.

Pete set off into the darkness, and Jed seated himself by the fire. Ignoring the old prospector, Jed helped himself to the other's supper.

Poke hardly noticed him. He'd been so close to success, after all these years! Tomorrow, Poke's old friend, Sheriff Watson of Sage City, would be

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

Get Rid of UGLY PIMPLES this new easy way!

Amazing new medicated lotion developed by a doctor works wonders by clearing up complexion in one week or less!

DON'T let a bad complexion ruin romance, spoil your fun, cause you to be embarrassed, shy or ashamed. If you suffer from *acne*, the common external cause of pimples among young people, try this wonderfully effective medicated lotion that was developed by a practicing physician to clear up his own teen ager's complexion after other methods had failed. It has produced astonishing results for many thousands of others. It is GUARANTEED to help you or it won't cost you a single cent!

Doesn't Show On Your Face

Keraplex is a skin-colored lotion (NOT a greasy salve or ointment!) that is quickly absorbed by the skin and gets right down in the pores where its healing and antiseptic ingredients can go to work. After you have applied it, there is no trace left on the surface. In fact, it makes a perfect powder base for girls and a refreshing after shaving lotion for men . . . actually improves the tone of the skin! It is pleasant and easy to use — leaving your skin soft, clean and fragrant.

Works in SIX Out of SEVEN Cases!

An analysis of RESULTS taken from actual case histories proves that Keraplex is successful in clearing up 6 of every 7 cases of externally caused pimples and blackheads. It tones up the complexion, giving it a healthy, radiant glow. And men — if you suffer from pimples on shoulders and back, Keraplex does an amazingly effective job of clearing them up FAST — without soiling clothes, without messiness or greasiness!

Try This New Method Without Risking A Penny!

Keraplex is GUARANTEED to clear up your skin troubles or there will be NO COST to you whatsoever. If yours happens to be the ONE extra-stubborn case out of seven which Keraplex cannot help in one short week, it will cost you nothing to have tried it. Keraplex is sent to you with that simple, positive GUARANTEE!

SEND NO MONEY

You need send no money with the coupon below. When postman delivers your Keraplex lotion (in plain wrapper marked "Personal"), deposit with him only the modest price indicated below, plus a few cents postage. Then use your Keraplex morning and night for a full week, following the simple directions which will be enclosed.

If you do not SEE RESULTS that delight you — if you are not fully convinced that Keraplex IS clearing up your complexion — just return the empty bottle or unused portion and the purchase price will be refunded in full. Don't delay a single day. The longer you let your skin troubles go, the more difficult it will be to clear them up and get your complexion back to a healthy, clear, unblemished condition! Clip and mail the coupon TODAY. Underwood Laboratories, Inc., Stratford, Conn.

BEFORE

This young man suffered from a severe case of acne for years and tried all the usual "remedies" without success.

AFTER

Same young man after using KERAPLEX twice a day for just one week. Notice the decided improvement—pimples completely gone!

BEFORE

Note more than a dozen blemishes on just one side of this girl's face before KERAPLEX was applied.

AFTER

Same girl had used KERAPLEX twice a day for only 5 days when above photo was taken. Note the amazing improvement.

WHAT USERS SAY:

"I was suffering from a severe case of acne . . . and with only 4 days' treatment with Keraplex . . . was completely relieved."—P. S.

"I have been completely satisfied with your lotion to help clear up the pimples on my face."—K. W.

"I have used Keraplex and for the first time in my life my pimples are clearing up in good shape. I can't thank you enough!"—E. S.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

UNDERWOOD LABORATORIES, Inc., Dept. 56
STRATFORD, CONN.

Yes! I want to try Keraplex ON APPROVAL. Send size checked below in plain wrapper marked "personal." When it is delivered I will deposit with postman amount indicated below, plus postage. If not delighted with the RESULTS, I will return empty bottle within seven days for a full refund of the purchase price.

☐ Regular Size, $1.98
☐ Double Quantity (Two Bottles), $3.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ SAVE POSTAGE. Check here if you ENCLOSE payment, in which case we pay postage. Same money-back Guarantee applies!

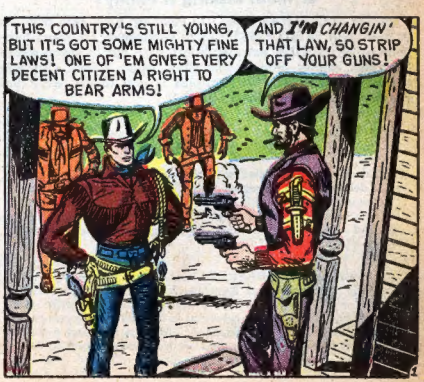
Payment must be sent with orders going to A.P.O.'s, Canada and foreign countries, due to postal rules.

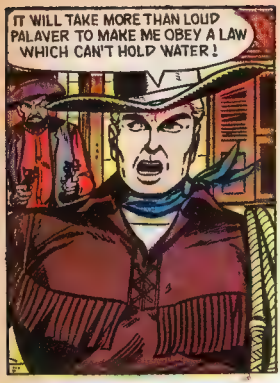
THE RAWHIDE KID

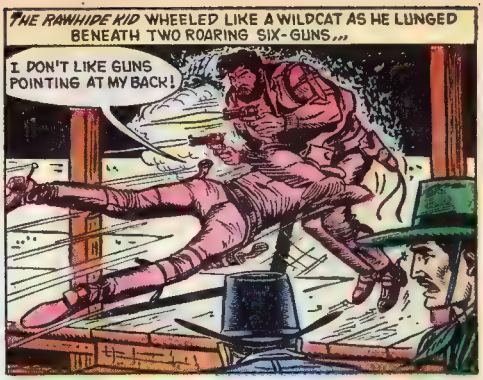
WHAT HAPPENS TO A FRONTIER TOWN WHEN A NEW SHERIFF TRIES TO IMPOSE A NO-GUN LAW? THE RAWHIDE KID WOULD SOON KNOW WHAT, WHEN AND WHY!

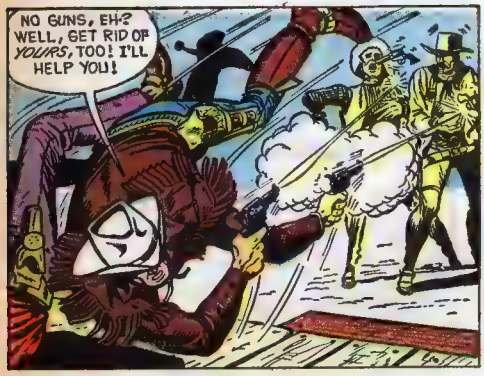
NOTICE
NO GUNS ALLOWED IN TOWN!
STAND STILL, MISTER! NOBODY TOTES A GUN IN SHOTGUN CITY WITHOUT MY SAY-SO! THAT'S THE LAW!
"THE RAIDERS!"
DICK AYERS H STO

SINCE WHEN DID SHERIFF PACK TILFORD TURN HIS STAR OVER TO YOU?
TILFORD RESIGNED AND I'M THE LAW HERE NOW! MY NAME IS WILDCAT GARNET, AND I WANT TO SEE YOU DROP THAT GUNBELT PRONTO!


THIS COUNTRY'S STILL YOUNG, BUT IT'S GOT SOME MIGHTY FINE LAWS! ONE OF 'EM GIVES EVERY DECENT CITIZEN A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS!
AND I'M CHANGIN' THAT LAW, SO STRIP OFF YOUR GUNS!


IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN LOUD PALAVER TO MAKE ME OBEY A LAW WHICH CAN'T HOLD WATER!


THE RAWHIDE KID WHEELED LIKE A WILDCAT AS HE LUNGED BENEATH TWO ROARING SIX-GUNS...
I DON'T LIKE GUNS POINTING AT MY BACK!


NO GUNS, EH? WELL, GET RID OF YOURS, TOO! I'LL HELP YOU!

BUT DISASTER LOOMED SUDDENLY FROM BEHIND THE RAWHIDE KID...
HAUL HIM INTO A CELL!

NOW COOL YOUR BOOTS A SPELL, MISTER! YOU'LL BE TRIED IN THE MORNING!
IF YOU'RE THE LAW IN THIS TOWN, THEN SOMETHING'S WRONG... FOR SURE!

LATER...
ONE POLECAT LIKE HIM CAN SPILL THE WHOLE APPLECART! YOU BOYS KNOW WHAT TO DO TONIGHT?
YEAH! WE'LL HAVE THINGS PRETTY MUCH OUR OWN WAY!

AND THAT NIGHT, AS SHOTGUN CITY SLEPT...

MOMENTS LATER, THE REAR WALL OF THE SHOTGUN CITY BANK BLEW INWARD WITH A CRASH ...

WORK FAST, BOYS! WE GOT TO GET THE EXPRESS OFFICE NEXT!

SHOTGUN BANK

DISARMED CITIZENS GLARED IN HOPELESS DISMAY AS THE RAIDERS LOOTED AND PILLAGED AT WILL ...

NO GUNS FOR US, BUT PLENTY FOR *THEM*! WE WERE FOOLS TO GIVE UP OUR WEAPONS WITHOUT A FIGHT!

THERE WASN'T A MAN HAD THE SPUNK TO FIGHT FOR HIS RIGHTS, EXCEPT *THE RAWHIDE KID*!

EXPRESS OFFICE

MEANWHILE, IN THE REAR OF THE JAILHOUSE ...

LOOK, KID! I BROUGHT A SAW AND YOUR EXTRA SIX-GUNS! I GOT APACHE WAITIN' OUTSIDE, TOO!

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN, LI'L PARTNER!

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

OKAY! I CAN GET THROUGH NOW!

I'VE GOT THE HORSES BEHIND JEB STONE'S BARN!

THE FIGURES OF A MAN AND A BOY RIDING HARD FLITTED OUT OF THE BORDER TOWN ...

I BROUGHT EXTRA GRUB UP TO OUR HUNTING SHACK!

YOU THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING, RANDY! THAT BUNCH OF SELF-STYLED LAWMEN HAVE THIS TOWN TREED!

THEY SAT UP LATE AND TALKED...

... AND THAT'S THE STORY OF OUR COUNTRY, RANDY! TRAITORS AND WOULD-BE OPPRESSORS TRIED TO MAKE US WEAK SO THEY COULD RULE US!

GEE, AND THE MEN WHO WROTE OUR CONSTITUTION KNEW IT, SO THEY MADE THE LAW *GOOD* MEN COULD BEAR ARMS!

BETTER GET SOME REST! WE'RE HEADING FOR THE LITTLE HORN BASIN AT DAWN! WE'LL BE SAFER THERE!

MAYBE THAT ABANDONED SHACK IS STILL THERE AND WE CAN HOLE UP IN IT!

THE SUN WAS CLIMBING THE NEXT DAY WHEN THE TWO TRAVELERS REACHED LITTLE HORN BASIN ...

THERE'S THE SHACK, KID! LET'S GO!

NO! THOSE ARE FRESH TRACKS AROUND IT! I'LL CAT FOOT DOWN AND HAVE A LOOK! WATCH FOR MY SIGNAL ...

THE RAWHIDE KID REACHED THE REAR OF THE SHACK AND PEERED THROUGH A WINDOW...

IT'S SHERIFF PACK TILFORD! THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO ADD UP NOW!

MINUTES LATER ...

ME, RESIGN? NOT ON YOUR LIFE! THEY DRYGULCHED ME NEAR MUD CREEK AND BROUGHT ME HERE!

AND THEN THEY DISARMED THE WHOLE TOWN AND SET THEIR BUZZARDS LOOSE TO PLUNDER IT! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

I'VE STILL GOT THE KEYS TO THE GUN AN' POWDER ROOM!

WE CAN RAID THE ARSENAL, DISTRIBUTE THE ARMS QUIETLY AND DO A JOB ON GARNET! LET'S START HUSTLIN'!

THAT NIGHT, AS RANDY CLAYTON WAS POSTED AS LOOKOUT ...

I GOT HERB NOLAN OUTSIDE WITH A BUCKBOARD! I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T SPOT HIM!

THEY WON'T WITH RANDY ON LOOKOUT! WE'LL SPLIT UP AND HAND THIS STUFF OUT ALL AROUND TOWN!

RIFLES

SHOTGUNS

HANDS

AMMUNITION

WILDCAT GARNET WAS CELEBRATING HIS COMPLETE DOMINATION OF SHOTGUN CITY, WHEN A LEAN, HARD-JAWED HOMBRE ENTERED THE SALOON ...

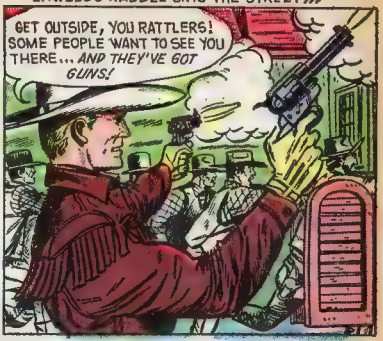
THE PARTY'S OVER, GARNET... NOW YOU AND YOUR BOYS START PAYING OFF THE FIDDLER!

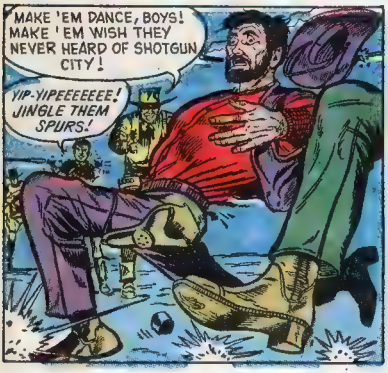
WHAT! IT'S THAT RANNY WHO BUSTED OUT OF THE PEN! GET HIM, BOYS!

THE KID'S HANDS FILLED WITH DANCING HARDWARE!

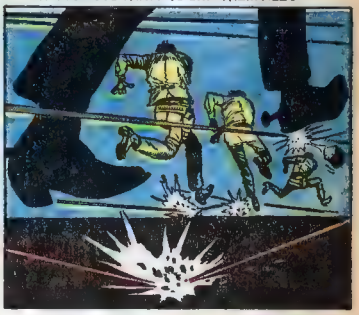
SOME OF THE THUGS TRIED TO FLEE TOWARD THE BACK DOOR, BUT THAT EXIT WAS PLUGGED...

THE RAWHIDE KID'S GUNS ROARED AS HE HERDED THE LAWLESS RABBLE ONTO THE STREET...

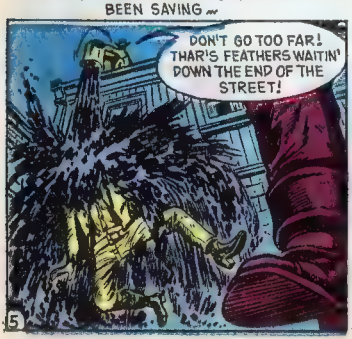




THERE HAD BEEN WELCOMING PARADES IN SHOTGUN CITY, AND FAREWELL PARTIES, TOO... BUT THIS WAS A GOOD-BYE PARTY TO END THEM ALL!



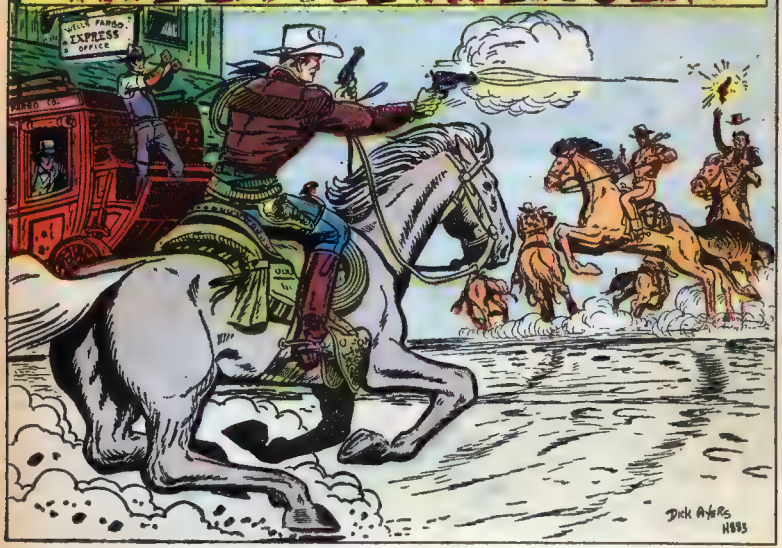
ERNIE WATTS, THE BEST ROOFER IN SHOTGUN CITY, FOUND GOOD USE FOR THE VAT OF TAR HE HAD LONG BEEN SAVING...



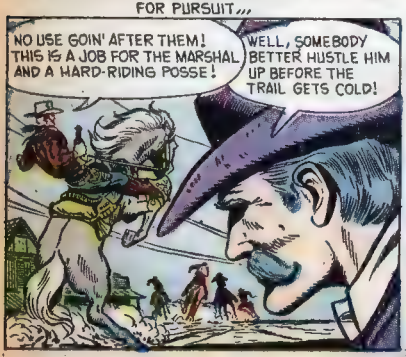
THE RAWHIDE KID

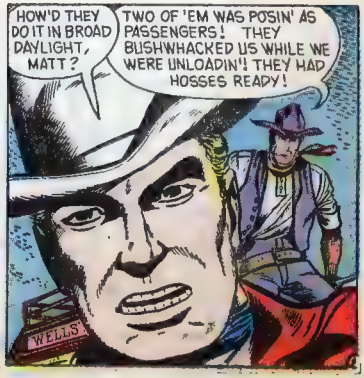
THE BANDITS HAD BOLDLY LOOTED THE SAN CARLOS STAGE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND WERE GETTING AWAY! ALL THE BREAKS SEEMED TO BE IN THEIR FAVOR! ALL, THAT IS, BUT ONE! THEIR DOOM WAS SEALED BY...

THE LITTLE AVENGER!



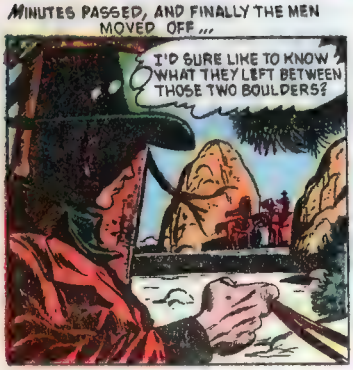
THE RAWHIDE KID REINED IN HIS HORSE! IT WAS TOO LATE FOR PURSUIT...

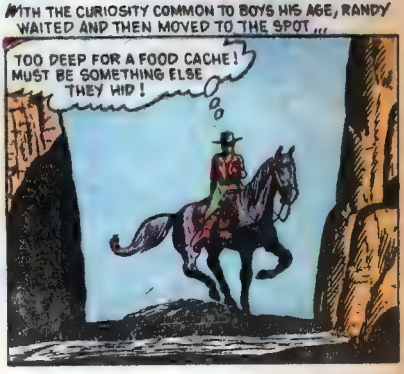

NO USE GOIN' AFTER THEM! THIS IS A JOB FOR THE MARSHAL AND A HARD-RIDING POSSE!
WELL, SOMEBODY BETTER HUSTLE HIM UP BEFORE THE TRAIL GETS COLD!


HOW'D THEY DO IT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, MATT?
TWO OF 'EM WAS POSIN' AS PASSENGERS! THEY BUSHWHACKED US WHILE WE WERE UNLOADIN'! THEY HAD HOSSES READY!
WELLS

TEN THOUSAND IN GOLD BARS... THE WHOLE SHIPMENT SLATED FOR 'FRISCO!
WHEW! I DON'T RECKON THEY'LL STOP RIDIN' TILL THEY CROSS THE BORDER!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HILLS FAR BEYOND SHOTGUN CITY, RANDY CLAYTON WATCHED FIVE MEN IN WIDE-EYED CURIOSITY...
WHAT CAN THEY BE DOING? THEY'RE NOT PROSPECTING! MAYBE THEY'RE BURYING A FOOD CACHE!


MINUTES PASSED, AND FINALLY THE MEN MOVED OFF...
I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THEY LEFT BETWEEN THOSE TWO BOULDERS?


WITH THE CURIOSITY COMMON TO BOYS HIS AGE, RANDY WAITED AND THEN MOVED TO THE SPOT...
TOO DEEP FOR A FOOD CACHE! MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE THEY HID!

HE DUG AWAY WITH HIS KNIFE AS THE HOLE GREW DEEPER AND DEEPER, AND SUDDENLY...
G-GOLLY! TWO BOXES! WONDER WHAT'S IN 'EM? OF COURSE, I CAN ALWAYS COVER THEM UP! I'M JUST MIGHTY CURIOUS ABOUT IT!

GOLD! BARS OF SOLID GOLD! I BETTER FIND KID AND TELL HIM!

I TOLD YUH MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! LOOK! A NOSY LITTLE KID!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! I WAS JUST LOOKIN'!

WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM, BOYS?
ONE THING FOR SURE, WE CAN'T LET HIM GO! HE'D TALK TOO MUCH!
AND THEN A WILDCAT EXPLODED IN THEIR MIDST!
GET THAT WILDCAT HOG-TIED! YEEEEOW!
OW! LEGGO MY LEG!
HOLD ON TO HIM, BOYS!
GET HIS HOSS, LUKE! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIM WITH US TILL WE CAN DUMP HIM SOMEPLACE!
G'WAN AN' DUMP ME! I'LL FIND MY WAY BACK, YOU BUNCH OF POLECATS!
TWO HOURS LATER, IN A MOUNTAIN HIDEAWAY...
NOW MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL! GRAB SOME BUCKETS AN' FETCH WATER FOR CAMP!
I'LL FIX THOSE COYOTES! THEY WON'T SEE ME GRAB THE SALT!
SALT
THE MEN WORKED HARD AND THE WATER LOOKED CLEAN AND FRESH! THEY RAISED THEIR DIPPERS AND SWALLOWED THIRSTILY, WHEN ...
WHAT! SOMETHIN'S WRONG WITH THIS WATER!
M-MY THROAT'S BURNIN'!
CONTINUED

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ACT NOW

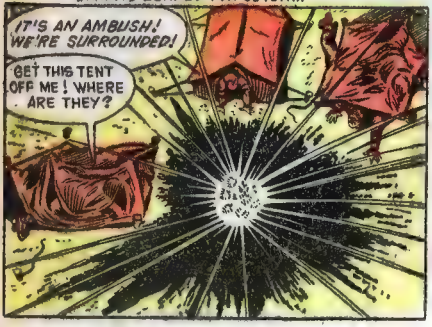
Our 60th Year

OUR 60th YEAR

RANDY HELPED WITH THE TENTS, BUT HIS POCKET KNIFE WORKED WITH HIM ...

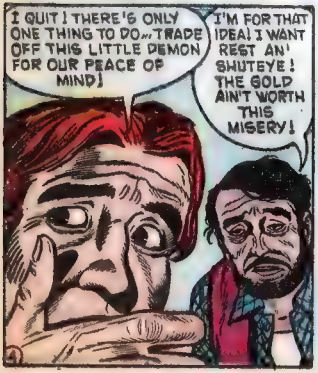
RANDY WORKED FAST, FLITTING QUIETLY FROM THE SUPPLIES TO THE FIRE ... SABOTAGING, WRECKING, SPOILING ...

SUDDENLY, THE NIGHT ERUPTED IN FLAME, AS THE BANDITS LEAPED FOR COVER ...



BY MORNING, FIVE WEARY BANDITS SOUGHT A TRUCE WITH A PINT-SIZED LITTLE AVENGER ...

LOOK, BOY! GO AWAY! YOU'RE FREE! YOU RUINED US! OUR GRUB IS DOSED WITH CAYENNE PEPPER! OUR WATER IS SALTED! OUR AMMO IS GONE! GO AWAY!
NOPE! I LIKE IT HERE AND I'M NOT LEAVING!


I QUIT! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO ... TRADE OFF THIS LITTLE DEMON FOR OUR PEACE OF MIND!
I'M FOR THAT IDEA! I WANT REST AN' SHUTEYE! THE GOLD AIN'T WORTH THIS MISERY!

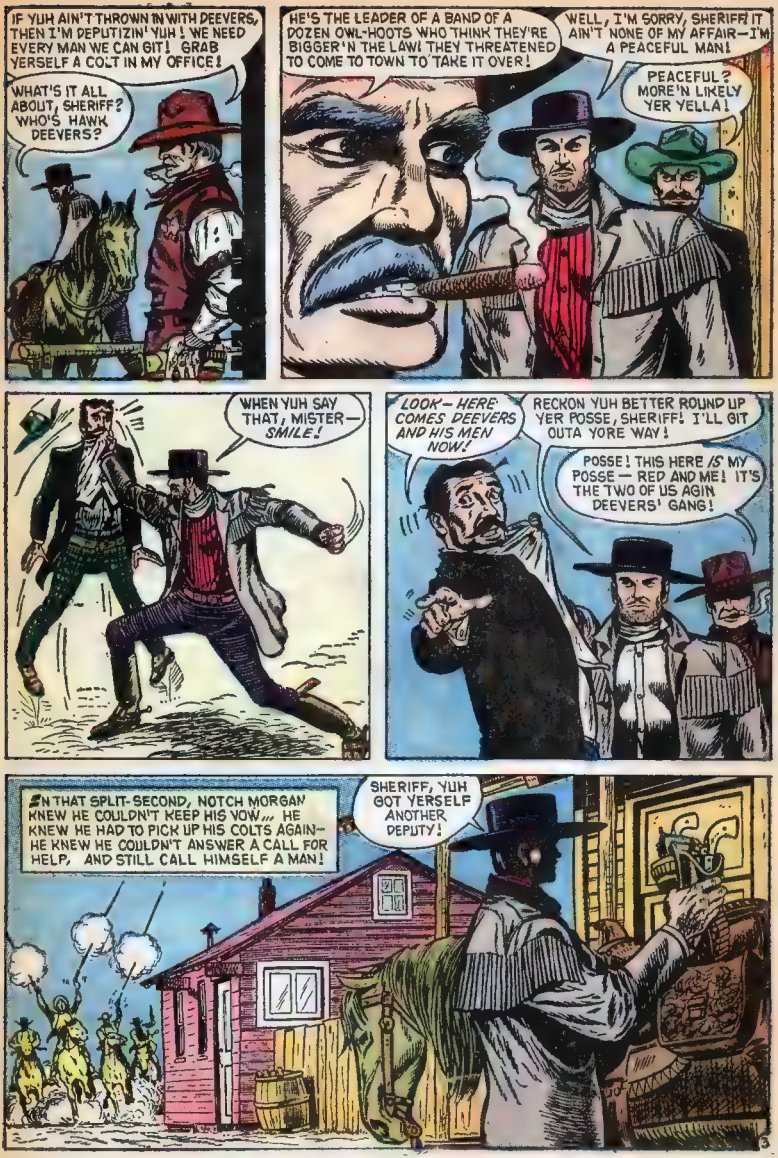
LATER, A VANQUISHED GANG ACCEPTED UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER ...

THAT'S THE DEAL, AMIGO! WE'RE RETURNIN' THE GOLD WE STOLE, BUT KEEP THAT SPITFIRE AWAY FROM US!
I'M TAKIN' YOU ALL IN TO FACE CHARGES! AND NO TRICKS, OR I'LL SIC THE LITTLE AVENGER ON YOU!

NOTCH MORGAN, GUN-FIGHTER

DIDJA SEE NOTCH DRAW?
NEVADA DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO GET HIS HAND ON HIS COLT!
AIN'T A MAN LIVING CAN OUTDRAW NOTCH!
MANY YEARS AGO IN THE BORDER TOWN OF CARSON GULCH, THERE WAS A GUN-FIGHTER WHOSE FAME HAD SPREAD AS FAR EAST AS THE MISSISSIPPI! HIS NAME WAS NOTCH MORGAN, AND HIS GUN WAS HIS ONLY FRIEND!
SALOON
DON'T JUST STAND THERE — SEE THAT HE GETS A DECENT BURIAL! NEVADA WAS A BRAVE MAN — I'M PLUMB SORRY HE FORCED ME TO DRAW AGIN HIM!

NOTCH MORGAN WASN'T PROUD OF HIS VICTORY— HE WAS BITTER,,, AND HEART-SICK... AND WEARY...
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL IT GO ON? I GOTTA KEEP SHOOTIN' EVERY FANCY DAN IN THE WEST UNTIL I MEET ONE WHO'LL BE FASTER THAN ME!
THERE MUST BE A WAY FER ME TO GIT OFF SOMEWHERE AND LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE ,,, WITH NO MORE GUNPLAY!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE ME TO SOME TOWN WHERE THEY DON'T KNOW MY FACE— I'LL START ALL OVER— AND WITHOUT THESE!
THREE WEEKS LATER, A MUSTACHED RIDER JOGGED INTO THE TOWN OF CAYUTE, OFF THE TEXAS BORDER! HE WAS UNSHAVEN, DUSTY, AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL— UNARMED!
MISTER, WHERE CAN I FIND ME A HOTEL?
HOMBRE, IF YUH AIN'T WEARIN' NO GUNS, YUH BETTER NOT STAY IN TOWN LONG ENOUGH TO CARE ABOUT NO HOTEL! IT JUST AIN'T SAFE!
CAYUTE BAR
BARBER
POST OFF
HOLD ON, STRANGER! ARE YUH ANOTHER OF HAWK DEEVERS' HIRED GUNNIES, COME TO SHOOT UP THE TOWN?
YUH GOT THE WRONG MAN, SHERIFF! CAINT YUH SEE— I AIN'T EVEN SPORTIN' NO IRONS!


IF YUH AIN'T THROWN IN WITH DEEVERS, THEN I'M DEPUTIZIN' YUH! WE NEED EVERY MAN WE CAN GIT! GRAB YERSELF A COLT IN MY OFFICE!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, SHERIFF? WHO'S HAWK DEEVERS?
HE'S THE LEADER OF A BAND OF A DOZEN OWL-HOOTS WHO THINK THEY'RE BIGGER'N THE LAW! THEY THREATENED TO COME TO TOWN TO TAKE IT OVER!
WELL, I'M SORRY, SHERIFF! IT AIN'T NONE OF MY AFFAIR—I'M A PEACEFUL MAN!
PEACEFUL? MORE'N LIKELY YER YELLA!
WHEN YUH SAY THAT, MISTER— SMILE!
LOOK— HERE COMES DEEVERS AND HIS MEN NOW!
RECKON YUH BETTER ROUND UP YER POSSE, SHERIFF! I'LL GIT OUTA YORE WAY!
POSSE! THIS HERE IS MY POSSE — RED AND ME! IT'S THE TWO OF US AGIN DEEVERS' GANG!
IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND, NOTCH MORGAN KNEW HE COULDN'T KEEP HIS VOW... HE KNEW HE HAD TO PICK UP HIS COLTS AGAIN— HE KNEW HE COULDN'T ANSWER A CALL FOR HELP, AND STILL CALL HIMSELF A MAN!
SHERIFF, YUH GOT YERSELF ANOTHER DEPUTY!

KEEP MOVIN' FAST, MEN — AIN'T A HOMBRE IN TOWN CAN HIT A JASPER A-SETTIN' ON A FAST-MOVIN' HOSS!
IN A FEW MINUTES, HAWK AND US WILL OWN THIS TOWN!
BUT HAWK DEEVERS AND HIS OWL-HOOTS HAD RECKONED WITHOUT THE COURAGE OF A BORDER TOWN SHERIFF — AND THE GUN-SLINGING MAGIC OF A MUSTACHED DEPUTY!
LOOK! THAT DEPUTY WINGED HAWK!
WITH HIS FIRST SHOT!
HE PEGGED LUKE!
AND CLEM!
THEY'RE HIGH-TAILIN' IT OUTA HERE! WE BEAT 'EM OFF, STRANGER! YOUR GUNS SAVED THIS TOWN!
RECKON THEY DID! AND RECKON THEY TAUGHT ME A LESSON TOO ...
I'M AGONNA KEEP WEARIN' 'EM! IT AIN'T WHAT A MAN WEARS THAT'S BAD — IT'S HOW HE USES IT! AND I RECKON THAT AS LONG AS I USE THESE COLTS TO DEFEND THIS DEPUTY BADGE, THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
AND YOU'LL HAVE THAT BADGE AS LONG AS YUH WANT IT, SON!
AND SO, NOTCH MORGAN, GUN-FIGHTER, BECAME NOTCH MORGAN, DEPUTY ... AND THE WEST INCHED THAT MUCH CLOSER TO ITS ULTIMATE DESTINY!
THE END

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CONTINUED

riding up for a visit. If Jed and Pete hadn't busted in on him, Poke would have had a pile of gold to show the sheriff, and they would have ridden back to Sage City together, to register Poke's claim, and to celebrate.

Pete came back, swinging the lantern jubilantly. "The old buzzard was tellin' the truth, Jed." he shouted. "I found the mine right where he said! Guess we won't be needin' the dynamite, after all!"

"Dynamite?" Poke asked, looking up.

"We were planning to blow up the Sage City bank," Jed said shortly. "Now that we're respectable miners, we can forget about that."

Poke went on urgently. "There's more gold in that mine than shows. I never had the money for dynamite, so all I could do was dig about fifteen feet into the hillside. I figured on buying explosives with the low-grade ore I found to blast my way further in. That's where the main lode is. I'm sure of it!"

Jed and Pete stared at each other, excitement in their eyes.

"Get some dynamite off your horse, Pete, and we'll find out," Jed ordered.

The two bank robbers set off for the diggings with the dynamite, and old Poke struggled to his feet, his hands still tied behind him.

"Can I come along, boys?" he begged.

Jed stopped, then shrugged, and Poke stumbled behind them. Poke flopped to the ground outside the mine while the other two entered and set up the explosive.

After lighting a long fuse, the two men ran out of the mine and fell to the ground beside Poke.

The dynamite went off with a loud roar that shook the ground and the flash from the mine entrance lit up the darkness. When the last rumble had died away, Jed and Pete leaped to their feet and dashed back into Poke's mine. Poke held his breath and waited.

A second after the two claim-jumpers had disappeared inside, there was another rumble from the hillside. Quickly, the mine entrance collapsed, as the entire hillside fell in on the mine.

Sheriff Watson found his old friend the next morning, sleeping peacefully beside the collapsed mine, his hands still tied behind him.

"What happened, Poke?" he shouted, and rushed forward to untie the old prospector.

Poke stood up rubbing his wrists. Chuckling, he told the sheriff the story.

"Was there gold further back?" the sheriff asked, puzzled.

"I dunno," Poke said shrugging. "I never got back that far. But what I did know was that the hillside was full of rock faults. The only way to get gold out of it is by digging. Blasting will bring the top down, every time. Those boys should have stuck to what they know—bank-robbing, not mining!"

Then he stared at the smouldering campfire. "Y'know, sheriff," he said, "I just realized I didn't have much supper last night. Let's eat, then go register that claim!"

THE END 9386

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

KAWHIDE KID, published bimonthly, at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1955.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, CORNELL PUBLISHING CORP., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Managing editor, MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.; Business manager, MONROE FROEHLICH, JR., 655 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

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(Signed) MONROE FROEHLICH, JR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of September, 1955.

(SEAL) TESS GOLDBERG

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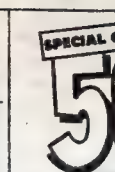

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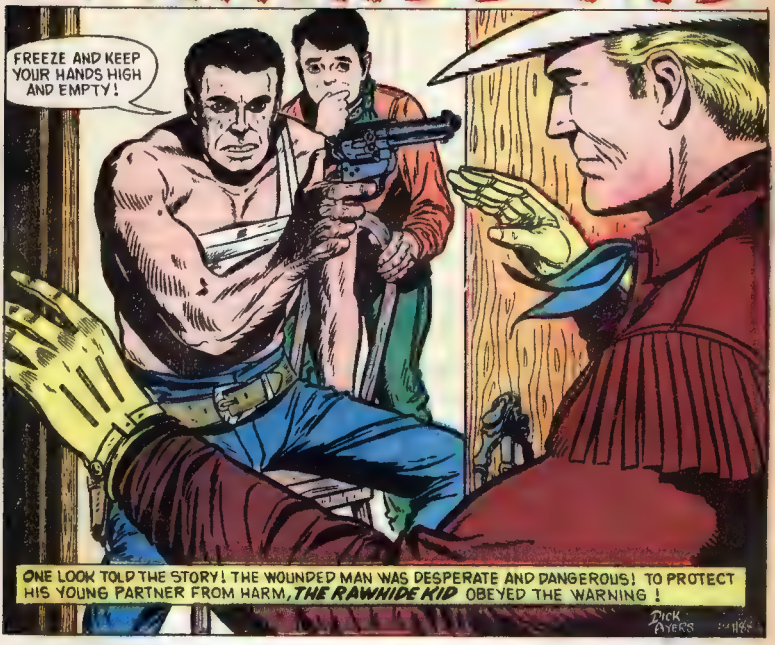
THE RAWHIDE KID

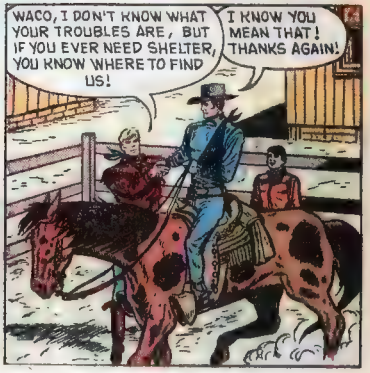

FREEZE AND KEEP YOUR HANDS HIGH AND EMPTY!
ONE LOOK TOLD THE STORY! THE WOUNDED MAN WAS DESPERATE AND DANGEROUS! TO PROTECT HIS YOUNG PARTNER FROM HARM, THE RAWHIDE KID OBEYED THE WARNING!
DICK AYERS

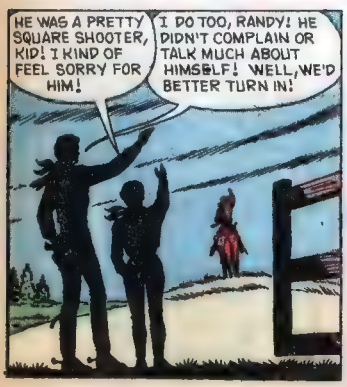
WE'LL PALAVER LATER! PART OF THAT SLUG IS STILL IN THERE! YOU'LL HAVE TO HANG ON WHILE I PROBE IT OUT! BOIL MORE WATER, RANDY!
THANKS, AMIGO!

HALF AN HOUR LATER...
I'M SORRY I JUMPED THE GUN ON YOU, AMIGO! I'VE BEEN CHASED SO OFTEN, I JUST NATURALLY DRAW WHEN I SEE STRANGERS!
IT'S GETTING LATE! DO YOU WANT TO SHARE GRUB WITH US?

NO, THANKS! I'D BETTER BE RIDING ALONG! I WON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!
YOU CAN THANK RANDY! HE'S ALWAYS HELPING FOLKS!

THE STRANGER WENT OUT, BUT RETURNED A MOMENT LATER...
RANDY, I'VE NEVER DONE MUCH GOOD IN MY LIFE, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THIS SADDLE! IT'S THE FINEST NORTH OR SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE!
GOSH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! IT'S JUST GREAT... BEAUTIFUL!


WACO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR TROUBLES ARE, BUT IF YOU EVER NEED SHELTER, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US!
I KNOW YOU MEAN THAT! THANKS AGAIN!


HE WAS A PRETTY SQUARE SHOOTER, KID! I KIND OF FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!
I DO TOO, RANDY! HE DIDN'T COMPLAIN OR TALK MUCH ABOUT HIMSELF! WELL, WE'D BETTER TURN IN!

WHILE RANDY SLEPT, THE RAWHIDE KID EXAMINED A POSTER...
WACO PARDEE, THE TOUGHEST GUN-TOTER IN THE TERRITORY! RANDY LIKES HIM SO THERE'S NO USE SPOILING A KID'S IMPRESSION!
WANTED
REWARD
Waco Pardee

DAWN CREPT OVER THE HILLS, AND OUTSIDE THE CABIN ...
KIMBALL, STAND GUARD OUTSIDE! HANK AND BLACKJACK, COME WITH ME! IF HE'S IN HERE, WE'LL NAIL HIM!
HOWDY! WE TRACKED AN AMIGO OF OURS TO THIS SHACK! HE WAS CARRYIN' A .45 SLUG IN HIS ARM! WHERE IS HE?
THE HOMBRE'S NAME IS WACO PARDEE! HE'S REFORMED ... TRIED TO QUIT MY BUNCH! NOBODY QUITS BARREL KANE!
I GUESS THAT WAS YOUR SLUG WE TOOK OUT OF HIM! WELL, HE'S LONG GONE NOW!
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE HIS PLACE AND HELP US CLEAN OUT THE BANK IN TOWN!
YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE, KANE!
YOU AND THE BOY WILL RIDE AHEAD OF US! I RECKON FOLKS KNOW YOU BOTH, SO WE WON'T BE BOTHERED!
YOU'RE LOWER THAN A RATTLER'S BELLY, KANE!
ONE HOUR LATER, A STRANGE GROUP LOPED INTO TOWN ...
MIGHTY STRANGE COMPANY FOR THE RAWHIDE KID TO BE IN!
CAIN'T JUDGE AN HOMBRE BY HIS LOOKS! MEBBE THEY'RE COWPOKE FRIENDS OF THE KID'S JUST COME IN OFF THE RANGE! RANDY'S WITH THEM!
BANK
JUST SAUNTER INTO THE BANK SLOW-LIKE! THEY WON'T THINK ANYTHING'S WRONG WHEN THEY SEE YOU AND THE BOY!
IF THE YOUNGSTER WASN'T HERE, KANE, I'D CHANGE YOUR TUNE!
RANCHERS NATIONAL BANK

A STRANGE IMPULSE TUGGED WACO PARDEE TOWARD TOWN THAT MORNING...

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S EATIN' ME! MAYBE I JUST WANT TO SEE A CLEAN TOWN FOR A CHANGE... DECENT FOLKS...

SO THE OUTLAW WHOSE LIGHTNING-QUICK GUNS HAD SCOURGED THE WEST, LOPED SLOWLY THROUGH TOWN...

I KEEP THINKIN' THE WAY THAT BOY'S EYES LIT UP WHEN I GAVE HIM THAT SADDLE! MADE ME WISH I HAD A YOUNGSTER OF MY OWN!

BANK

AND SUDDENLY, THE OUTLAW'S EYES FROZE AND GLITTERED...

THE SADDLE I GAVE THE BOY...AND THAT'S KANE'S HORSE WITH THE REST! THEY TRACKED ME TO THE CABIN!

WACO PARDEE MOVED SWIFTLY DOWN THE STREET, HIS HOLSTER SLUNG LOW AND STRAPPED TIGHTLY TO HIS LEG...

IF THE BOY IS HURT, IT WILL BE *MY* FAULT! MAYBE NOW I CAN DO SOMETHING DECENT FOR A CHANGE... IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BANK...

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU PUT IT IN! STUFF THE MONEY INTO FEED BAGS, BUT GET GOIN'! *MOVE!*

Y-YES, SIR!

A HARD VOICE GRATED BEHIND THEM AND THE THUGS WHEELED FAST...

WHEEL, YOU BUZZARDS! YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR *ME* AND HERE I AM!

BANK

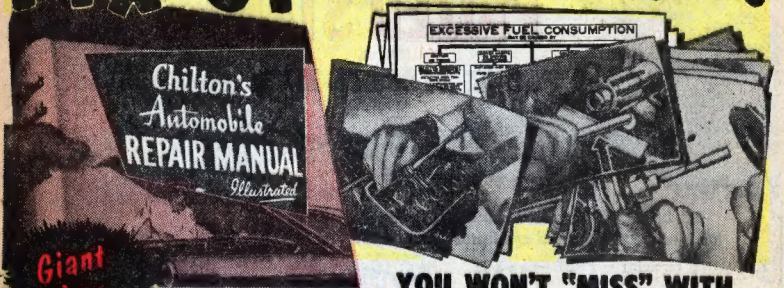
THINGS HAPPENED FAST AS GUNS ROARED IN WILD CONFUSION...

SPREAD, YOU SIDEWINDERS!

I'LL SPREAD 'EM FOR YOU, WACO!

USE THE FRONT DOOR, KANE! YOU WON'T GET FAR THAT WAY!
TRY THAT FOR SIZE!
NO-EXIT, KANE!
LET GO OF MY LEGS!
KEEP 'EM UP HIGH, BOYS! I GOT A MIGHTY NERVOUS TRIGGER-FINGER!
GOT THE WHOLE PASSEL OF 'EM, I SEE!
YEP! ALL FOUR OF 'EM!
WHY DON'T YOU STAY, WACO? YOU'VE SQUARED OFF YOUR RECORD!
THANKS, BUT I THINK I'D BETTER KEEP RIDIN'. I'LL REMEMBER THAT INVITE OF YOURS THOUGH... SHELTER WITH FRIENDS, WHEN I NEED IT!
THAT HOMBRE REALLY HANDLES A SIX-GUN, I HEAR! FRIEND OF YOURS, KID?
A VERY CLOSE FRIEND, SHERIFF... WHO CAME ALONG JUST WHEN WE NEEDED HIM!

Tune Up, Pep Up, Fix Up ANY CAR!



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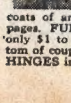

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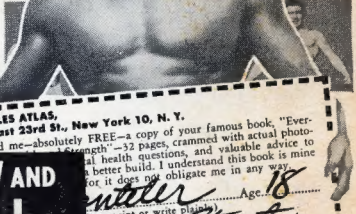

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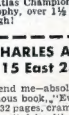

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LATER
—AND WE USED TO BE SO SKINNY!
AM I PROUD OF THE WAY THE GIRLS LOOK AT YOU!
WHAT A MAN!

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

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